

Message Text

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22

ACTION OES-06

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TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: IAEA REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS STUDY:
LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1. SUMMARY: GROUP OF CONSULTANTS FROM 15 MEMBER STATES AND THREE ORGANIZATIONS MET TO DISCUSS LATEST DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON LEGAL/INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF IAEA'S STUDY ON REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS. MEETING WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND PRODUCED NUMEROUS REVISIONS TO PAPER. SWEDISH EXPERTS OUTLINED SOME DETAILS OF RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY RELATED TO REPROCESSING. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTANTS MEETING ON SUBJECT MET AT IAEA HEAD-QUARTERS JUNE 28-JULY 1, 1976. CONSULTANTS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MEET THROUGH JULY 2, BUT WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK BY MID-DAY JULY 1. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED: R. STUEGER, AUSTRIA; N. MACDONALD, AUSTRALIAN MISSION; DECOAT, C.E.N. GENERAL SECRETARY, BELGIUM; AMBASSADOR P. GUSTAFSSON, DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS OF FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND J. MANNINEN, FINNISH MINISTRY
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OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY; FINK, URANIT, FRG; A. FINKELSTEIN

(PARTICIPATED ONLY LAST DAY), FRENCH CEA, AND P. HUET, VICE-CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF STATE, FRANCE; S. SHIMOYAMA, JAPAN ATOMIC POWER CO.; K. S. PARK, ROK ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU; M. AFZAL, PAKISTAN AEC; L. IBE, COMMISSIONER OF PHILIPPINE AEC AND B. BERNARDO, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR REGULATIONS AND SAFEGUARDS AT PAEC; A. DE STORDEUR AND LAFONTAINE, C.E.C., L. CORRETJER, SPANISH JEN AND E. LOPEZ-MENCHERO, JEN REP IN VIENNA; A. LARSSON, SWEDISH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY; P. PFUND, SWITZERLAND; W. ROOKE (UK) URENCO; COPIC, YUGOSLAVIA (ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OBSERVERS); STROHL, OECD/NEA; AND GABBERT AND HOUCK OF THIS MISSION. COUNTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS INVITED BUT NOT RPT NOT REPRESENTED INCLUDE: ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CANADA, HUNGARY, CMEA AND IEA.

2. GROUP MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN DISCUSSING AND REVISING DRAFT WORKING PAPER. (REVISED VERSION WILL BE POUCHED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE - PROBABLY TWO WEEKS OR SO.) MOST TROUBLESOME PORTION WAS SECTION DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, WHICH WAS ENTIRELY REWRITTEN TO MORE CLEARLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION OF A PROPRIETARY OR ECONOMIC NATURE, TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION CONSIDERED SENSITIVE FROM A NON-PROLIFERATION STANDPOINT, TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE WIDELY DISSEMINATED, SUCH AS SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY A REGIONAL CENTER ITSELF, WHICH COULD INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOREGOING. REVISED VERSION ALSO DISCUSSES NEED FOR PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS TO BE AWARE OF THIS GENERAL PROBLEM AREA SO THEY CAN CONSIDER VARIOUS PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND TECHNIQUES. REVISION IS LESS SPECIFIC THAN EARLIER VERSION AND DELIBERATELY VAGUE ON POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES.

3. INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL WAS ALSO EXTENSIVELY RE-WRITTEN AND REORGANIZED. AMONG POINTS ADDED WAS RECOGNITION THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO IAEA ITSELF ASSUMING A MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN A PARTICULAR REGIONAL CENTER, OR IN PART OF ITS ACTIVITIES, AS ENVISAGED IN AGENCY'S STATUTE.

4. MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL CONCERNED.

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5. DURING COURSE OF MEETING, SWEDISH PARTICIPANT MENTIONED HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENTLY COMPLETED SWEDISH HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE STUDY ON STRATEGY FOR HANDLING BACK-END OF FUEL CYCLE. STUDY REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT A REPROCESSING PLANT FOR SWEDEN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, NOTING, INTER ALIA, THAT SPENT FUEL SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED AS WASTE, THAT REPROCESSING SUCH SPENT FUEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FROM ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDPOINT, AND THAT LONG-TERM STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL IS NO

RPT NO SOLUTION. THERE ARE TWO SOLUTIONS PROPOSED: (A) RE-PROCESS SPENT FUEL AND EXTRACT PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM FOR RE-USE; OR (B) CHANGE THE SPENT FUEL TO FORM SUITABLE FOR LONG-TERM STORAGE. FOR REPROCESSING OPTION, STUDY PORPOSES 800 TONS/YEAR PLANT FOR OPERATION IN 1990. BY 1997, SWEDISH NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SOME 300 TONS/YEAR OF SPENT FUEL. THUS, PLANT WILL HAVE OVERCAPACITY, WHICH COULD BE USED BY OTHER CUSTOMERS. PLANT WOULD COST THREE BILLION SWEDISH KRONER AND INVOLVE ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS OF 850 MILLION KRONER. WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL OF WASTES WOULD COST ANOTHER ONE BILLION KRONER. FYI. LARSSON PROMISED TO SEND US A COPY OF STUDY REPORT AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. WE WILL POUCH IT TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS RECEIVED. END FYI.

6. NEXT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT TENTATIVELY PLANNED AS A REGIONAL SEIMINAR IN LATIN AMERICA, PROBABLY SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 10. MISSION WILL ADVISE AS PLANS BECOME FIRM. STONE

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